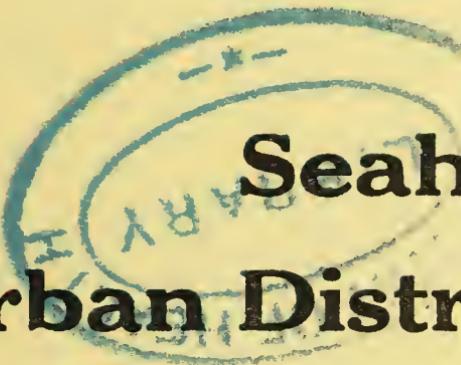


HEALTH
A 27 SEP 49
C.R. 54

LIBRARY



**Seaham
Urban District Council**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

FOR 1948

OF THE

HEALTH DEPARTMENT



J. GREENWOOD & SONS, PRINTERS, SEAHAM



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30075312>

Seaham
Urban District Council

ANNUAL
REPORT

FOR 1948

OF THE

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Seaham Urban District Council.

Chairman, Councillor J. E. McCUTCHEON, J.P.,

Chairman of Health Committee, Councillor W. P. SMITH, J.P

Members of the Council:

Councillor ARMSTRONG	Councillor McLAUCHLAN
„ BARRATT	„ OAKLEY
„ BLACKWELL, J.H.	„ OLIVER
„ *BLACKWELL, O.	„ *PIGG
„ CHARLTON	„ ROBINSON
„ CONN	„ SAVAGE
„ CROMPTON	„ SCOTT, J. A.
„ GASCOIGNE	„ *SHAW
„ GOODWIN	„ *SMITH
„ KEELEY	„ *STRONG
„ LEE	„ *TODD
„ LOWERY	„ *WEBSTER
„ *MORELAND	„ *WEETMAN
„ MYERS	„ *WHITWELL
„ *McCUTCHEON	„ WILLIAMS
	„ WILSON

* Members of Health Committee.

Officials of Health Department:

Medical Officer of Health :

WM. JAMES PEDEN, L.R.C.P.I. & L.M., L.R.C.S.I. & L.M.,
D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector—BATESON TURNER, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
C.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector—Vacant.

Engineer and Surveyor—A. M. SMITH, M.I.M. & C.Y.E., A.I.A.A.

Clerk in Health Department—

To September, 1948—Miss J. DOWDING,
from September, 1948—Miss E. LAWSON

*To the Chairman and Members
of the
Seaham Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my annual report for the year 1948. I am glad to inform you once again that no major epidemics occurred, a position which we hope will continue.

You will notice that the death rate and the infantile mortality rate are the lowest we have ever recorded, which affords us much satisfaction.

It is gratifying to know that there were no deaths from Diphtheria, the downward trend of this disease is indeed satisfying, inasmuch that some years ago it claimed so many victims.

The inauguration of the National Health Service in July, did not produce any marked effect on our own services. The ambulances came under control of the County Council, but this change had very little effect on the services supplied to the area, and the high standard of previous years was fully maintained.

House building has made steady progress and though there are still many people living under difficult conditions, every effort is being made to alleviate this state of affairs.

There has been a slight increase in the number of Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases notified, but probably the means of diagnosis has been facilitated by X-ray examination which may have brought to light many cases which had been previously undetected. It should be noted that females between the ages of twenty—twenty five bear the brunt of the attack, and it is at about this time that careful watch should be kept on any illness, which should at once be reported to the family Doctor.

No incidents of note occurred among the ships that entered the port and the help given to us by the Harbour Officials left nothing to be desired.

I acknowledge with thanks the co-operation shown by the Chairman and Members of the Council and my colleagues on the staff.

WM. JAMES PEDEN,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

(Figures in brackets refer to previous year).

Area : 2,467 statute acres.

Number of inhabited houses (June, 1948), 6500, (6390)

Estimated number of separate tenancies (June, 1948), 7340
(7247)

Rateable value, £103,074 (£104,491).

The sum represented by a Penny rate, £374 (£384)

VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth Rate—LIVE BIRTHS:—

22.09 per 1000 estimated population (23.73)

STILL BIRTHS:—

Rate per 1,000 total births, 30.71 (21.2).

Infantile Mortality.

Death rate of all infants under one year per 1000 live
births, 45.75 (48.4)

Death rate of legitimate infants under one year per 1000
live births, 44.01 (45.0)

Death rate of illegitimate infants under one year per
1000 live births, 55.5 (83.3).

Deaths.

Total rate per 1000 population, 9.95 (11.8).

Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live and still births, 1.7.
(1.6)

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths from Cancer	16 (21)	17 (26)	33 (47)
Deaths from Measles	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
Deaths from Whooping Cough ..	0 (1)	1 (1)	1 (2)
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1 (1)	0 (3)	1 (4)
Deaths from Diphtheria	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (1)
Deaths from T.B. (Pul.)	10 (7)	4 (11)	14 (18)
Deaths from T.B. (Non-Pul.) ...	1 (0)	1 (1)	2 (1)
Deaths from Diseases of the Heart	32 (43)	34 (44)	66 (87)
Deaths from Circulation (in- cluding Intracranial)	30 (17)	17 (22)	47 (39)
Deaths from Pneumonia, Bron- chitis, etc.	15 (18)	12 (12)	27 (30)

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics for 1948 and certain
previous years.

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1900	42.0	21.1	174
1910	36.4	14.8	122
1920	35.2	16.3	124
1930	23.0	10.5	80
1937	17.2	10.3	82.9
1938	16.9	10.6	66.6
1939	16.3	10.6	78
1940	18.2	12.6	56.9
1941	17.6	12.2	60.4
1942	18.1	11.3	49.8
1943	19.86	13.5	59.3
1944	20.8	11.2	73.6
1945	21.5	10.0	56.3
1946	23.4	11.1	46.1
1947	23.73	11.8	48.4
1948	22.09	9.95	45.75

TABLE II.
Vital Statistics for 1947 and 1948.

	England and Wales		Smaller towns (Population 25,000-50,000)		County Rate		Seaham	
	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948
Birth Rate ...	20.5	17.9	22.2	19.2	22.2	20.0	23.73	22.09
Death Rate ...	12.0	10.8	11.9	10.7	12.1	11.1	11.8	9.95
I. M. Rate ...	41	34	36	32	50	47	48.4	45.75

SUMMARY OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND TUBERCULOSIS.

Herewith some figures which will help you to understand the
health of the area during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

[illegible][illegible]

TABLE IV.

Monthly Notifications of Infectious Diseases during 1948.

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever ..	4	7	6	4	10	7	5	3	3	2	3	4	58
Diphtheria ..	2	5	1	2	2	3	1	3	1	1	5	1	27
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Erysipelas ..	1	2	3	2	4	2	—	1	2	—	—	1	18
Measles ..	8	1	23	208	268	98	13	2	—	3	—	13	637
Whooping Cough ..	6	—	5	6	13	18	24	29	32	18	10	2	163
Pneumonia ..	7	3	8	4	4	1	1	3	1	3	3	9	47
Meningitis..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	1	6	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	9
Ophthal. Neonatorum	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	5

TABLE V.

Infectious Disease and Tuberculosis Cases notified during past five years.

(Figures in parenthesis indicate number of Deaths).

Disease	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Scarlet Fever ...	39 (0)	49 (0)	45 (0)	58 (0)	58 (0)
Diphtheria ...	40 (3)	38 (1)	28 (1)	33 (0)	27 (0)
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0 (0)	2 (0)	3 (0)	7 (0)	1 (0)
Erysipelas ...	4 (0)	8 (0)	6 (0)	11 (0)	18 (0)
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1 (1)	4 (2)	5 (1)	5 (0)	0 (0)
Poliomyelitis ...	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	7 (0)	0 (0)
Measles ...	43 (0)	180 (0)	251 (0)	95 (0)	637 (1)
Whooping Cough ...	40 (0)	13 (0)	25 (0)	45 (0)	163 (1)
Pneumonia ...	53 (0)	37 (0)	59 (0)	38 (0)	47 (9)
T.B.—Pulmonary ...	31 (7)	28 (14)	38 (11)	37 (14)	45 (14)
T.B.—Non-Pulmonary	27 (0)	19 (5)	17 (0)	14 (0)	8 (2)

TABLE VI.
TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NOTIFICATIONS				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1 ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1-5 ..	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 ..	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
10-15 ..	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20 ..	2	2	3	—	—	—	—	—
20-25 ..	—	5	—	—	—	1	—	1
25-35 ..	5	7	—	—	1	2	—	—
35-45 ..	2	2	—	—	2	1	—	—
45-55 ..	6	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
55-65 ..	4	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 upwards	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	20	25	5	3	9	5	—	2

Here are a few notes on the foregoing tables:—

There were no cases of **Cerebro Spinal Fever** or **Poliomyelitis** (which has the common name of Infantile Paralysis, a misnomer in the fact that the disease attacks all ages). These are both conditions which affect the Nervous System.

There was an epidemic of **Measles** but fortunately there was only one death.

The incidence of **Scarlet Fever** cases was exactly the same as last year. The nature of this illness is now of a very mild type.

There was a slight increase in **Erysipelas**—a condition which usually attacks the older members of the community.

There were forty-seven occurrences of **Pneumonia**, and it should be noted that out of these forty-seven cases, ten occurred in children under one year, and thirteen occurred in people between the ages of forty-five and sixty-five.

Of **Tuberculosis** I have already said a few words at the introduction of the report, but I should like again to state how appreciative the people concerned are of the Council's generosity in providing them with housing accommodation suitable for their needs.

We had a slight outbreak of **Dysentery**, but were, however, able to control the spread so that the numbers were restricted to nine.

Puerperal Sepsis was restricted to one case, which state of affairs reflects the progress of Public Health.

There were no cases of **Food Poisoning** or **Typhoid**.

GENERAL SANITATION.

(1) **Abatement of Nuisances**—The Sanitary Inspector dealt with 167 complaints, and the following nuisances and sanitary defects have been dealt with:—

Dwelling-houses	{	Foul conditions..	..	32
and		Structural defects	..	22
Schools	{	Overcrowding ..	..	—
Dairies and Milkshops		.. ..	..	1
Cowsheds	..	.. ..	..	1
Bakehouses	..	.. ..	..	3
Ashpits and Privies	..	.. ..	..	643
Water Closets	..	.. ..	..	131
Defective yard paving	..	.. ..	..	12
House Drainage	{	Defective traps ..	..	—
		No disconnection from sewers	..	—
		Other faults ..	..	38
Smoke Nuisances	..	.. ..	..	28
Other Nuisances	..	.. ..	..	548

(2) **Disinfection and Disinfestation.**—At the Health Department Depot in Cornelia Terrace, disinfection of clothing and bedding by a Thresh type of disinfector. Formaldehyde liquid, vapour tablets, Cromessol and Killgerm liquid disinfectants are used for house disinfection.

(3) **Disinfestation and Eradication of Bed Bugs**—

Bedding is disinfected at the Depot with Formaldehyde Thresh Disinfector and, if necessary, other previously-named fumigants are used. When houses are disinfected the fumigants are:—(i) Powder D.D.T. (Kolium Co. and Killgerm Co.); (ii) Insecticide (Kolium British Fumigants and Killgerm); (iii) Fumigation (Fumex, Kolium and Killgerm Sulphur blocks) and Formaldehyde).

(4) **Drainage and Sewerage.** — The disposal of sewerage is carried out by the combined system and is discharged into the sea at the east end of the town. Extensions are made at intervals on account of housing developments. There are only a very few isolated houses which are not on the water carriage system.

(5) **Factories and Workshops.**—All Complaints have been dealt with satisfactorily, and after consultation with the Town and Country Planning Authority, alteration and additional facilities have been provided which have improved working conditions. All suggested improvements have met with the owners' approval.

(6) **Housing.**—Improvements to property are taking place at a very slow rate owing to shortage of material and labour, but every effort is made to help the properties in a reasonable condition.

The Council are reducing overcrowding by rehousing overcrowded families, in Council properties and also families with Tuberculosis cases. The shortage of houses is delaying the Council's scheme for rehousing families who are living in unfavourable conditions.

(7) **Meat and other Foods**—A total of 994 visits were made to where food is stored.

The following is a list of foods condemned:—

Beef 319 lbs; Pork Luncheon Meat 17 lbs; Stewed Steak 1 tin; Brawn 12 tins; Whale Meat Sausage 28 tins; Rissoles 9; Turkey 1 tin; Suet 10½ lbs; Minced Meat Loaf 7 tins; Bacon 50½ lbs; Tongue 1½ lbs; Bacon 3 tins; Tea 2 lbs; Sugar 32 lbs; Butter 7¼ lbs; Margarine ½ lb; Fruit Salad 5 tins; Milk 1 bottle; Eggs 649; Dried Egg 3 tins; Milk 177 tins; Lemon Curd 2 jars; Jams 91 jars; Marmalade 28 jars; Syrup 5 tins; Figs 64 lbs; Pears 3 tins; Plums 25 tins; Tomatoes 37 tins; Carrots 3 tins; Beans 24 tins; Peas 31 tins; Soups 527 tins; M. & V Rations 8 tins; Mixed Vegetables 2 tins; Spaghetti 5 tins; Potatoes 4 lbs; Apple Puree 1 tin; Dutch Mussels 75 jars; Pom 3 pkts; Dried Milk 4 tins; Mushroom Ketchup 2 bottles; Peaches 37 tins; Bate De Foi 1 tin; Grapefruit 17 tins; Pressed Beef 19 lbs; Potted Beef 3 lbs; Sausage 1 tin; Weetabix 2 pkts; Grapefruit Marmalade 6 tins; Apples 1 tin; Apricots 1 tin; Vinegar 1 bottle; Liquid Coffee 2 bottles; Bero Flour 3 lbs; Pineapple 1 tin; Minced Meat 100 lbs; Danish Pork 1 lb; Veal Loaf 2 tins; Mince Meat 1 jar; Dates 49 lbs; Gooseberries 1 tin; Bun Flour 54 packets.

- (8) **Milk.**— Inspectors have been to the farms and they were found to be in a satisfactory condition. Samples of milk taken have been found to comply with the regulations.

There are six farms in the area, four of which supply T. T. Milk, and two, Pasteurised Milk

- (9) **Port Sanitary Authority.**— No changes were recorded in the administration of the Port Sanitary Authority. The Custom Officials receive any notification of illness aboard the vessel and inform us forthwith. The cleansing, the disinfection, the hospitalisation and the use of ambulances were all of a satisfactory nature, and the local Doctors are fully aware of the action to take in cases of venereal disease.
-

- (10) **Rat Disinfestation.**— All complaints are dealt with by a fully qualified Rodent Officer and the methods adopted are those suggested by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

Sewers disinfestation is carried out at half-yearly periods, and very small infestations are found.

There have been no major infestations found in the area

- 11) **Refuse and Salvage.**—The total amount of refuse collected for the year ending 31st March, 1949, was 17,874 tons. Controlled tipping is in operation, and the tip is situated in the south-eastern part of the area and Dawdon Dene.

The collection of salvage is carried out by the Surveyor's Department, the approximate total figures being :

	T.	C.	Q.
Paper	145	1	1
Scrap Metal	64	17	0
Non-ferrous Metals...	0	11	1
Textiles	5	1	3
Kitchen Waste	23	17	0
Bottles and Jars	24	2	0

Amount of Shipping Entering the Port during the Year.

	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number reported to be defective	Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of Vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry of Transport Surveyors	Number of Vessels reported as having or having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector				
Foreign { Steamers * Motor Sailing Fishing	...	7896	—	10	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	...	1313	—	—	"	"	"	"
	...	Nil	—	—	"	"	"	"
	...	Nil	—	—	"	"	"	"
Total Foreign ...	20	9209	—	10	"	"	"	"
Coastwise { Steamers * Motor Sailing... Fishing	...	587,601	14	66	"	"	"	"
	...	48,747	—	—	"	"	"	"
	...	Nil	—	—	"	"	"	"
	...	Nil	—	—	"	"	"	"
Total Coastwise ...	1144	636,348	14	66	"	"	"	"
Total Foreign and Coastwise	1164	645,557	14	76	"	"	"	"

* Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

Factories Act, 1937 & 1948

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	1	35	76	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	—	—	—	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority *(excluding out-workers' premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL ..	—	35	76	—	—	—

* i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 103(1)), Institutions. (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	4	1	1	—	1	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(a) Insufficient ...	10	2	2	—	4	—	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	60	3	3	—	5	—	60
TOTAL...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Take advantage of Mass Radiography when it visits your district and have yourself X-rayed.

It is easy, confidential and free.

Even though you are feeling well, we would advise you to take this “safety-first” precaution.

